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O.A.R. PLAY MUSIC FIT FOR A 'KING' {page 14}

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NEW YORK
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

SPRING STRAINING

Judge won't dismiss Mets case, will go to trial Team guaranteed to pay up to $83M, $303M on the line in jury trial Court 'remains skeptical' trustee can prove case {page 04}

News

Muslims rally, praise NYPD surveillance

Narrator of controversial 'Third Jihad' film organized pro-NYPD event Some welcome the 'spying' {page 02}

Are Hendricks nude pics real?

{page 09}

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MATTHEW DUTILE

▶ NYPD supporters rallied yesterday at police headquarters.

NY Muslims assemble to support cops

Some New York City Muslims said they have nothing to hide and welcomed NYPD surveillance at a rally outside police headquarters yesterday.

The rally brought together Muslim groups and local politicians to support the NYPD, said organizer Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, American Islamic Forum for Democracy founder.

Recently, the NYPD came under fire for Associated Press reports detailing NYPD surveillance of mosques, Muslim communities and students.

"We as Muslims recognize we have a major problem," Jasser told Metro. "There's an ideological problem that we need help rooting out."

Saturday, Commissioner Ray Kelly defended the NYPD's programs at a Fordham University luncheon, which was protested by Muslim students. "If terrorists aren't limited by borders and boundaries, we can't be either," Kelly said.

Jasser was the narrator of "The Third Jihad," which says Muslims want to "infiltrate and dominate America." It included an interview from Kelly, though Kelly later said he regretted his involvement.

"I don't see what the NYPD did wrong at all," said Samir Abdelkhalek, 18, a Staten Island senior and AIFD member. "I have nothing to hide."

Muslim leaders will meet with Kelly today.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
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In the news

Car wash workers want union

Labor advocates are hoping to unionize car wash workers in the city, who they say are often paid less than minimum wage. This morning, WASH New York, a new advocacy group, will release a report that argues workers get low wages and face dangerous working conditions. Car wash workers will meet at Rego Park's Metro Car Wash.

METRO/AB

In the news

Cops on the hunt

Cops are searching for a man wanted for questioning after the murder of a 43-year-old woman Saturday. The woman, Heather Wright, was found dead Saturday afternoon with head trauma at her Westminster Road apartment. Cops are looking for Omar Cohall, 34, estimated to be about 5 feet 8 inches and 260 pounds.

METRO/AB

'We thank God every day for the NYPD'

Opinion

M. ZUHDI JASSER
AMERICANISLAMICLEADERSHIP.ORG

At One Police Plaza, a broad group of patriotic North American Muslims stood together to support the brave work of the NYPD. Our reform-minded American Islamic Leadership Coalition came from more than 10 states and provinces of the U.S. and Canada to put an end to the one-sided international media coverage of attacks against the most successful and legal counterterrorism programs of the NYPD.

For too long, the NYPD has come under a systematic and coordinated assault by highly politicized Islamist organizations like the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Muslim Students' Association and their enablers, intent on dismantling the NYPD's programs. These groups would prefer to see American Muslims shackled to a collective mindset of victimization, rather than live up to our Muslim responsibility of reforming the radicalizing nature of Islamist ideas.

In fact, our anti-Islamist Muslims are often the primary targets of radical groups. As a silent majority of American Muslims, we thank God every day for the NYPD.

It is long overdue that Americans realize that false fears from Islamist groups of Islamophobia and political correctness are a smoke screen to avoid the tough work of reform and counter-radicalization.

Yesterday was a game changer in America's understanding of the diversity of Muslim communities and the necessary work of the NYPD.

*— **M. Zuhdi Jasser** is president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy and co-founder of the American Islamic Leadership Coalition.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

CAIR response

Zead Ramadan, chair of CAIR NY, responded to Jasser's comments.

- "Muslim Americans support the NYPD, but we don't support illegal surveillance of our community," Ramadan said. "The NYPD should be focused on pursuing criminality."
- He then went on to question Jasser's motives, stating that Jasser sought to "demonize the vast majority of the Muslim American community while attempting to legitimize his own voice."

Speaking for the Muslim community?

NEW YORK. Education consultant and Muslim community activist Sara Bokhari, 29, said pro-NYPD protesters were "out of touch with reality."

"I think it's a joke," Bokhari said. "They have a right to say whatever ridiculous things they want to say, but they're not standing up for justice."

Bokhari said that the news of the NYPD's surveillance of Muslim communities infringed on her rights and was the result of racial profiling.

"It's a complete misallocation of police resources," Bokhari said. "There are cops spying on innocent Muslims instead of focusing on actual criminals." METRO/EAE

Cops question person of interest in Chelsea slay

CHELSEA. Cops were reportedly questioning a person of interest yesterday in the case of a murdered Chelsea man who was left bound and gagged in his apartment.

John Laubach, 57, was found dead Friday at his apartment on 22nd Street in Chelsea.

Police had identified the person and were questioning him yesterday, according to the New York Post.

Cops previously said they were looking for two men who were seen getting into the elevator with Laubach before his death.

▶ Laubach

The medical examiner is working to determine the cause of death, cops said.

METRO/AB

Poll: New Yorkers say teacher evaluations fair

NEW YORK. Half of New Yorkers think teacher evaluations will improve the quality of public education, according to a Siena poll released yesterday. In the poll, 50 percent said they would improve education, while 38 percent said they would have no effect and 3 percent said it would make education worse. Nearly two-thirds said the system is fair to teachers.

METRO/AB

De Blasio says 9/11 data still not evidence enough

NEW YORK. Public Advocate Bill de Blasio pressed the mayor for more information about 9/11 responders yesterday, saying that information handed to Mount Sinai Medical Center on Friday was not enough.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg pledged to release the data after 9/11 responders called for the city to make public any research on responders and their illnesses. The data show that more than 300 cops received a cancer diagnosis after working on Ground Zero.

But De Blasio said the data lacks details on individual cancer cases, which would help Mount Sinai research the connection between cancer and the toxins responders inhaled at Ground Zero.

321 The data shows that 321 cops who served at Ground Zero received a cancer diagnosis.

"They have continued to stonewall researchers when it comes to the data most needed to prove a link between cancer and 9/11," De Blasio said. METRO/AB

Help children find their green thumbs

After helping dozens of city students grow gardens, program to launch nationwide ◗ Students learn to plant fruits and vegetables on their own

METRO GIVING

Welcome back to Metro Giving! Metro profiles New York City residents or a group that is giving back to their community in some way. We've written about everyone from a woman who gave up her year-end bonus to feed the hungry to a man who gave his kidney to a stranger. Know a person who should be featured in Metro Giving? Let us know by e-mailing charity@metro.us

You could help children grow their own vegetables during class.

The Earth Day Organic Indoor Learning Garden, which aims to create a garden in every school, plans to launch nationwide this Earth Day after a pilot program in New York City reached more than 100 schools.

By partnering with inner-city schools, the group is able to fund gardens for classrooms. In New York, about 120 schools have or will soon receive gardens, said Earth Day New York executive director Pamela Lippe.

And about 300 more hope to get one, she said.

"We've found that the program's got legs," she said.

By expanding the program nationwide, they hope to provide gardens to any school that can either raise the funds for the garden and shipping — about $320 — or request one through a donation.

Get involved

- Any person or corporation can donate a garden to a specific school if they contribute the full cost, Lippe said. Individuals can also donate money that will be used for gardens at inner-city schools by donating at http://earthdayny.org.

"What we've found is that there's such excitement and interest around these gardens," she said.

Each garden includes a container with the garden, potting soil and seed starter trays along with organic seeds.

In New York, volunteers visit classes, helping students to assemble and plant their gardens. They also teach children about fruits and vegetables and basic nutrition.

The garden can even be wheeled around, making it a mobile lesson.

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

LISA CLOUGH

▶ A student gardens at Cinema School in the Bronx.

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DiNapoli to DOT: Sell spaces

NEW YORK. The Department of Transportation is holding onto extra properties, such as land meant for projects or parking spaces, instead of selling them to make money for the state, according to a report issued yesterday by state comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The audit reviewed 110 potential surplus properties, finding that 18 properties were worth approximately $7.1 million.

These unused properties could be sold to generate revenue for the state, DiNapoli said.

The comptroller recommended that the agency review properties that it could sell or lease to generate revenue. **METRO/AB**

"The [DOT] owns many properties across New York that are just sitting idle. Many of these could be sold and put to good use."
THOMAS DINAPOLI
STATE COMPTROLLER

Judge: Mets must pay, going to trial

GOT AN OPINION?
LETTERS@METRO.US

NEW YORK. The hits keep on coming for the Mets. And not the ones on the field.

U.S. District Court Judge Jed S. Rakoff ruled in favor of Bernie Madoff trustee Irving Picard yesterday, telling Mets owners Fred Wilpon and Saul Katz they will have to pay up to $83 million — a hit that could amount to about what the Mets will pay players this year.

The ruling was the first step of what could lead to a damaging trial for Mets ownership.

Wilpon's lawyers had filed a motion for the case to be dismissed, but Rakoff ruled against them. A jury trial will get underway March 19. If the jury rules in favor of Picard at trial, the Mets could owe an additional $303 million.

Picard, who is in charge of reclaiming money from those who benefited from the Madoff Ponzi scheme on behalf of the victims, argued he was entitled to the $83 million in profits Wilpon made in the two years prior to Madoff's arrest. With today's ruling, the judge agreed.

Bigger trouble might arrive when the jury trial begins in two weeks. The Wilpons stand to lose $303 million in damages if they lose. Picard had originally filed for $1 billion in damages, but Rakoff reduced that to $386 million, including the $83 million.

For Mets fans looking on the bright side, Rakoff said in his written judgment that "[the] Court remains skeptical that the Trustee can ultimately rebut the defendants' showing of good faith." **MARK OSBORNE**

Mets hoping to raise funds

The Mets took a $40 million bank loan from MLB in December due to their financial issues, according to the New York Times.

Wilpon spoke at spring training camp last week, however, and said the team was close to agreeing to seven minority stakes in the club — each worth $20 million.

The team is looking to raise about $200 million to pay off the loan and said it remain financially solvent going forward.

"We intend to own the franchise for a very long time," Wilpon told reporters in Port St. Lucie, Fla., the home of Mets spring training, Feb. 27.

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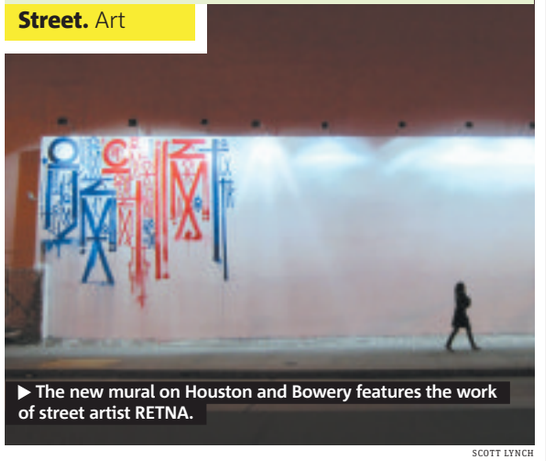
Street. Art



▶ The new mural on Houston and Bowery features the work of street artist RETNA.

SCOTT LYNCH

Acclaimed street artist RETNA was the latest artist to tag a billboard on Houston and Bowery. RETNA — who is really Marquis Lewis, 34, is from Los Angeles — had his first major NYC solo show titled "RETNA: The Hallelujah World Tour" last month on the West Side of Manhattan. **METRO/EAE**

Obama and Israel far apart on timing of action over Iran

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are deeply at odds regarding how fast the clock is ticking toward possible military action against Iran's nuclear program, and their talks yesterday are unlikely to change that.

Even though Obama has offered assurances of stiffened U.S. resolve against Iran before the White House meeting, the two allies are still far apart on explicit nuclear "red lines" that Tehran must not be allowed to cross, and they have yet to agree on a time frame for when military action may be necessary.

Obama wants Israel to hold off attacking Iran's nuclear sites, insisting there is still time for sanctions and diplomacy to work. But he also vowed he would be ready to act militarily to prevent the Islamic republic from building an atomic bomb. **REUTERS**

McCain: Bomb Syria

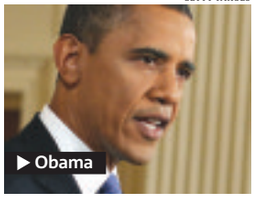
The United States should lead an international effort to protect key population centers in Syria through air strikes on President Bashar al-Assad's forces, U.S. Sen. John McCain said yesterday.

"The ultimate goal of air strikes should be to establish and defend safe havens in Syria, especially in the north, in which opposition forces can organize and plan their political and military activities against Assad," McCain, an influential Republican, said in remarks on the Senate floor.

McCain has previously called for efforts to arm the Syrian opposition. But he said yesterday the help Syrian rebels needed most urgently was "relief from Assad's tank and artillery sieges in the many cities that are still contested" in Syria. **REUTERS**

Obama picks GOP Super Tuesday to defend record

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Obama

President Barack Obama will hold a news conference this afternoon, the White House said yesterday.

The event, giving Democrat Obama a chance to defend his agenda and push back against critics, will grab media attention as his Republican rivals compete in "Super Tuesday," the biggest day yet in the race for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, when 10 states vote.

Obama has been staging appearances that coincide with important events in the Republican primary election calendar.

Last week, he addressed members of the United Auto Workers in Washington as Mitt Romney, front-runner to win the right to face him in the Nov. 6 election, campaigned in Michigan in a primary in which he beat rival Rick Santorum. **REUTERS**

News in brief

Baby dies after Kentucky tornado

LOUISVILLE. A toddler who was found alive in a field in tornado-ravaged southeastern Indiana after her parents and two siblings were killed when a twister struck their mobile home died on Sunday of her injuries, her family said.

Angel Babcock had been in critical condition in a Kentucky hospital since Friday. **REUTERS**

SF Bay shaken by 4.0 earthquake

OAKLAND. A magnitude 4.0 earthquake shook the San Francisco Bay area yesterday, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The quake, which was initially reported at a 4.3 magnitude, was centered about 15 miles northeast of San Francisco, and was at a depth of 5.5 miles, the USGS said.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. **REUTERS**

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Who is Saul Alinsky, and who cares?

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POLITICAL WORLDLINESS FOR AN IMPOLITE WORLD

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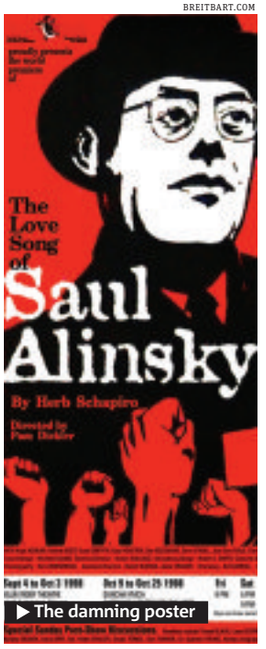
For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

Happy Super Tuesday, commuters! While voters in 10 states participate in pushing the eventual Republican presidential candidate to increasingly disastrous rightward extremes, we're going to take this day to discuss a haunting legacy of another sort entirely.

We speak of late conservative media prankster Andrew Breitbart, who shook the political landscape with his "Big" Web exposes (bringing down, among other résumé highlights, Rep. Anthony Weiner in the infamously eponymous Twitter scandal) and then shocked the world with his sudden death last week. Breitbart had been planning more Big things before he died, and the website he founded, Breitbart.com, relaunched late Sunday with a new design, is proudly carrying his torch.

So it is that Breitbart's editors have printed his final column, "The Vetting, Part I: Barack's Love Song to Alinsky," which they describe as "a story that should swing the first hammer against the glass wall the mainstream media has built around Barack Obama." The site explains: "Andrew wanted to do what the mainstream media would not. First and foremost: Andrew pledged to vet President Barack H. Obama." Well, it's about time!

BREITBART.COM



▶ The damning poster

GET FED

Because who has time for more than headlines?

- "GOP's Economic Agenda Is Way More Radical Than Its Social Plan" **DAILY INTEL**
- "'Most Transparent Administration in History' is Possibly the Least Transparent in History" **DOUGPOWERS.COM**
- "Obama leaves Dems on their own" **POLITICO**
- "Is the GOP finally giving in?" **SALON**
- "What will President Obama do in his second term? Whatever Congress lets him do" **WONKBOOK**
- "Lawmakers secretly work on bipartisan deficit grand bargain" **THE HILL**
- "Mitt Romney's Father Palled Around With Saul Alinsky" **BUZZFEED**
- "The One Percent Bounce Back" **THE NEW REPUBLIC**

Breitbart's swan song focuses on Obama's alleged connections with communist activists in '90s-era Chicago; specifically his association with a play, "The Love Song of Saul Alinsky," after one 1998 performance of which the then-senator participated in a panel discussion. The stated aim here is to shine some light on Obama's "true political will," which he claims "the American public remains largely ignorant of." As such, he provides a detailed — and ostensibly terrifying — list of the other speakers on the panel that night, a group of communist individuals. In this way, he hopes to tarnish the Obama legacy as one of unabashed psychotic leftism.

Were that it was! But if Obama's a communist, he must be pulling a long con. If anything, he's proven himself to be frustratingly moderate, taking for instance a very conservative path toward health care reform — righties supported similar proposals before the president embraced them as a means of reaching concensus — and angering lefties in the process. Was it all an elaborate ruse for re-election? If so, why not just enact his communist policies in term one? What long-term goal could disguising himself as a severely centrist executive possibly serve Obama's supposed Marxist overlords?

Of course there is none, and no reasonable evidence to suggest that the president is some sort of secret radical. (Again, we wish.)

Then there's this: Mitt Romney's father, a former Republican governor, apparently liked Alinsky enough to work with him politically. How long until Breitbart's media empire tackles the secret motivations of Big Romney?

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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IRS software glitch delays tax refunds

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service's new software system for handling electronic tax returns has experienced problems during the tax filing season, angering some taxpayers whose refunds have been delayed.

In an issue that could draw congressional scrutiny, the IRS said it was addressing the software glitches and that delays in sending refunds to taxpayers would be minimal.

The tax collection agency has made a big commitment to upgrading its software and has been expecting to shut down its old software system in October.

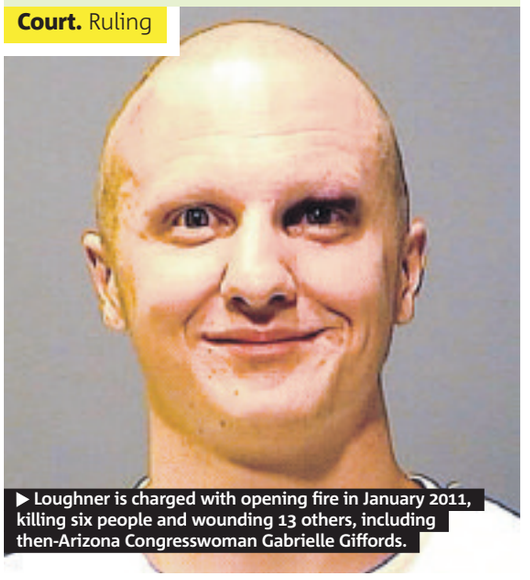
"A final decision on that won't be made until after the filing season and after we have a chance to have additional conversations with" tax return preparers, said IRS spokesman Frank Keith.

The IRS said delays in sending out refunds began in February. "There were probably several million taxpayers whose returns we took longer to process," Keith said. **REUTERS**

Extra time

- The IRS had projected that taxpayers who got their 2012 electronic returns in by April 15 would get direct-deposit refunds seven to 13 days later; or 17 days for mailed refunds.
- That projection was expected to improve on the previous year, when direct deposit refunds went out 8 to 15 days after e-files came in; and 22 days for refund checks sent in the mail.

Court. Ruling



▶ Loughner is charged with opening fire in January 2011, killing six people and wounding 13 others, including then-Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

Court: Forcible medication OK

Authorities can continue to forcibly medicate accused Tucson, Ariz., shooter Jared Loughner at a Missouri prison hospital to prepare him for trial, a U.S. appeals court ruled yesterday in denying a request by his attorneys to end the treatment. The ruling upholds a district court judge's decision that allowed for Loughner to be given psychotropic drugs against his will.

Technology sector leading jobs surge

A surge in technology-industry hiring is helping to spearhead a jobs-market revival as demand swells for computer-software applications and data.

Online help-wanted advertising for computer and mathematical occupations rose 2.1 percent in February from January to the second-highest since the Conference Board began compiling the data in 2005. Vacancies outnumbered job seekers by more than 3-to-1, according to the research group. Postings on tech-career website Dice.com are 12 percent higher than a year ago, with openings for workers skilled in mobile applications up more than 100 percent.

"This feels like the beginning of another tech-driven jobs boom," said Michael Mandel, chief economic strategist at the Progressive Policy Institute. "The broad communications sector resisted the downward pull" of the recession and is going to be a leader in the expansion. **BLOOMBERG**

▶ Looking for a job? There's an app for that.

466K

The app economy now is responsible for about 466,000 jobs in the U.S., up from zero in 2007 when the iPhone was introduced.

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*For Apple Advantage Savings and Money Market Accounts (MMA), interest earned on daily balances of $1 or more at these tiers: $1-$9,999: .10% Annual Percentage Yield "APY," $10,000-$24,999: 0.90% APY, $25,000-$49,999: 0.90% APY, $50,000-$99,999: 0.90% APY, $100,000-$499,999: 0.90% APY, $500,000 or more: .10% APY. To earn stated APY, you must maintain an active Grand Yield Advantage (GYA) NOW Checking Account with a minimum of six customer transactions per statement cycle (such as checks written, direct deposit and debit card purchases), otherwise the APY earned will be reduced to that being paid on the lowest balance tier. Once your GYA NOW Checking resumes required activity, the APY on your Apple Advantage (AA) Savings or MMA will be restored to the corresponding balance tier beginning with the next statement cycle. At our discretion, the APY on your linked AA Savings or MMA may also be lowered and/or your account closed if required transactions in the GYA NOW account are repeatedly only nominal and/or offsetting deposits and withdrawals. For AA Savings or MMAS, $10,000 minimum deposit required to open and avoid $25 monthly maintenance fee. GYA NOW Checking may be opened with $100 minimum deposit. $2,500 minimum daily balance required to earn stated 0.75% APY and avoid monthly maintenance fee. See specific account disclosure for details. Fees may reduce earnings. Funds used to open AA Savings/MMAs and GYA NOW Checking accounts cannot be from an existing Apple Bank account. **CDs require minimum deposit of $500 to open and earn interest. Early withdrawal penalties may apply. Accounts must be opened in person at an Apple Bank branch. ***Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) stated are effective as of February 28, 2012 and may be changed by the Bank at any time.

Who is the richest — today?

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index paints a cozy portrait of how the other 1 percent live ◗ Mexican Carlos Slim currently wealthiest person, trailed by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett ◗ Mark Zuckerberg doesn't make the cut

JOHAN ORDONEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim smiles after of receiving a recognition of the International Red Cross in Mexico City.

Carlos Slim, the telecommunications tycoon who controls Mexico's America Movil SAB, is the richest person on Earth, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a daily ranking of the world's 20 wealthiest individuals.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index takes measure of the world's wealthiest people based on market and economic changes and Bloomberg News reporting. Each net worth figure is updated every business day at 5:30 p.m. in New York.

Today's ranking was published with the release of new billionaires profile pages in the Bloomberg Professional service. The profiles feature a transparent analysis of how each billionaire's fortune was calculated.

Slim's fortune has increased 11 percent this year, according to the index. A spokesman for Slim didn't immediately return a telephone request for comment. The 72-year-old's net worth fell $478.4 million in a day to $68.5 billion as of the close of markets on March 2, as U.S. moguls Bill Gates and Warren Buffett placed second and third on the list compiled by Bloomberg News.

The combined net worth of the 20 richest people is $676.8 billion. Nine are Americans, including three from the family of Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Following is a list of the richest living people, with their spots on the list highlighted in green:

2 Gates, 56, co-founder of Microsoft Corp., is worth $62.4 billion, down $102.1 million on March 2 and up 11 percent year to date.

3 The fortune of Buffett, 81, chairman of Omaha, Neb.-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc., declined $336.9 million to $43.8 billion on March 2 and is up 2.4 percent in 2012. Almost all of Buffett's wealth is held in Berkshire Hathaway, the publicly traded holding company he has run since 1965.

7 No. 7 is Larry Ellison, 67, chief executive officer of Redwood City, Calif.-based Oracle Corp., the world's third-largest software maker after Microsoft and SAP. His $38 billion fortune puts him $4 billion ahead of brothers Charles and David Koch, who, tied at No. 8, each own 42 percent of Koch Industries Inc., one of the biggest closely held companies in the world by revenue.

10 Brazil's Eike Batista, who ranks 10th, still covets the top spot after vowing a year ago that he'd become the world's wealthiest man by 2015. His fortune has grown 32 percent this year, the most on the list.

13 Sheldon Adelson, the casino magnate who owns 47 percent of Las Vegas Sands Corp., which operates resorts in Macau and Las Vegas, is No. 13 with $25.7 billion.

BLOOMBERG

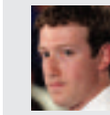
Pity Russia

No Russians appear in the index as falling metals prices hurt the fortunes of many of the richest oligarchs.

Alisher Usmanov, 58, the Muscovite who controls the Metalloinvest metals and mining company and Digital Sky Technologies, which currently owns 5.5 percent of Facebook, is Russia's wealthiest person thanks to a $20.1 billion fortune.

What about Zuck?

NEW YORK. Mark Zuckerberg, the 27-year-old founder of Facebook Inc., the world's largest social-networking company, didn't make the cut. Based on a roughly $100 billion valuation the Menlo Park, Calif.-based company has been trading at in the private market, Zuckerberg's stake may be worth $21 billion, or about 25 percent less than previous estimates, once Facebook holds its initial public offering.



The reason: Facebook will issue more than 500 million shares of its Class B stock at the offering, diluting Zuckerberg's ownership to 21 percent after he exercises 120 million options and sells about 42 million shares to cover the tax bill associated with the gain from those options.

BLOOMBERG

Quoted

"I'm competitive. Brazilians have always admired the American dream. What's happening in Brazil is the Brazilian dream and I happen to be the example."

EIKE BATISTA, WHOSE WEALTH TRAILS CARLOS SLIM'S BY ALMOST $39 BILLION

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

▶ This is one phone hacking scandal Rupert Murdoch isn't behind (we think).

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

See Christina Hendricks' Joan Holloways

Another day, another phone hacking scandal involving half-dressed celebrities.

This time, **Christina Hendricks** and **Olivia Munn** are victims after an anonymous user on Motherless.com asked the site's forum readers which celebrity they would like to see naked. When they answered Munn and Hendricks, the user apparently, through hacking magic, got onto Munn's and Hendricks' phones, grabbed some scandalous photos, and posted them. And now they are all over the Internet.

Munn's leaked pictures have extremely dirty writing superimposed over hard-core photos of the actress. Hendricks' pics are mostly of the "Mad Men" star in half-dress, while one is a full-on shot of her world-famous golden globes.

A rep for Hendricks confirms the theft, telling Gossip Cop, "Christina's phone was in fact hacked and photos were stolen," noting, "The proper authorities have been contacted in hopes of rectifying this situation. The topless image is fake and not an image of Christina."

Munn is denying everything — she tweeted that the photos aren't hers. (As she should; if real, her pictures are some Hustler-level stuff.)

I know. Your first thought is: Why would celebrities take naked photos of themselves when they know they are most likely to be hacked and put up on the Internet? (See: **Miley Cyrus**, **Vanessa Hudgens**, **Blake Lively**, and **Scarlett Johansson**.) But, honestly, if you were that hot with enough of an ego to be an actor, you'd probably take naked photos of yourself, too. Just maybe delete them after you're done doing whatever it is you do with them?

Talking points

Bieber's birthday details

Justin Bieber celebrated his 18th birthday with a star-studded surprise bash thrown by his manager and his mom at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in L.A., according to Us Weekly. "Everyone danced all night," a source says of the soiree. Despite notable guests like **Mike Tyson** and **Kim Kardashian**, the birthday boy only had eyes for girlfriend **Selena Gomez**, who flew in from Florida, where she's filming a movie. "He was all over Selena the whole time, walking her around by the hand," a source says. "He kept kissing her." As for presents, his manager, Scooter Braun, bought Bieber a $102,000 one-of-a-kind Fisker Karma hybrid sports car.

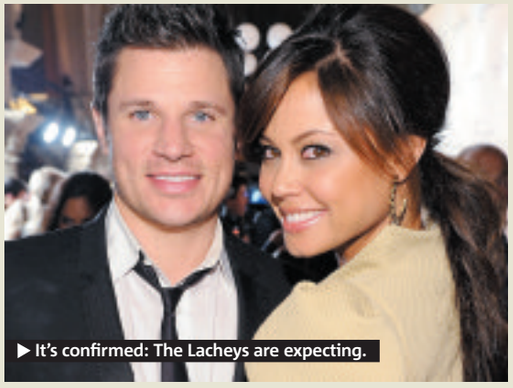
Kutcher knows where Moore is hiding

There's at least one person who knows the location of **Demi Moore**'s secret post-rehab vacation: her estranged husband, **Ashton Kutcher**. The "Two and a Half Men" star paid a visit to the recovering actress recently, according to People magazine — not that he was exactly enthused about it. "They are not getting back together. He knew it was important to her daughters," a source says of the visit. As for where it took place, sources tell E! News that they spotted Moore on a private beach near Parrot Cay in Turks and Caicos, at an ultra-exclusive resort only accessible by boat.

Blanchett

Blanchett: No plastic surgery

Cate Blanchett is no fan of plastic surgery, so don't expect her to go under the knife anytime soon. "I'm not sitting on a soapbox telling women what they should and shouldn't do," she tells Fashion ETC. "I just know what works for me. I'd be too frightened about what it means long-term. Looking at women in their 20s doing this stuff, in the end all you see is the work. It doesn't fill me with admiration; it fills me with pity."



▶ It's confirmed: The Lacheys are expecting.

Oh, baby!

Big news on the baby front yesterday: While co-hosting "Live! With Kelly" **Nick Lachey** announced that his wife, **Vanessa Lachey**, is expecting their first baby in late summer or early fall. Meanwhile, **Snooki** is still pregnant — and apparently engaged. The "Jersey Shore" star has yet to confirm either report, but insiders tell both E! News and People magazine that her boyfriend, **Jionni LaValle**, popped the question. And there you have it: Snooki is finally being made an honest woman. Let's see how long that lasts, shall we?

2

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Elijah Wood is in the mood for Girl Scout cookies, Kristin Chenoweth is getting better all the time, John Lithgow overdid it at the movies, and Joan Rivers wasn't impressed with Lindsay Lohan's performance.

@woodelijah
Samoas! those are my jam

@KChenoweth
I'm in bed resting. Healing. And watching Tom Cruise in The Last Samarai. For fifth time.

@John_Lithgow
Did a 3D double feature, HUGO and PINA. My head's spinning.

@Joan_Rivers
Lindsay Lohan was so bad on SNL that the judge is sending her back to rehab, but for acting lessons.

Wood

'The Hunger Games' kicks off, stars in airports, and more

1. Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence and **Josh Hutcherson** attended "The Hunger Games" U.S. Mall Tour Kick-Off at Westfield Century City in Los Angeles on Saturday.

2. Nicole Kidman was spotted at Aeroport Roissy — Charles de Gaulle in Paris yesterday.

3. Dita Von Teese arrived at Melbourne Airport in Australia on Saturday.

4. John C. Reilly arrived at the premiere of "8" presented by The American Foundation For Equal Rights & Broadway Impact at The Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles on Saturday.

5. Danny DeVito attended the "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax" Germany photocall at Ritz Carlton in Berlin yesterday.

6. A skinny **Katy Perry** was seen leaving the "Jean-Paul Goude exhibition" at the "Musee des Arts Decoratifs" in Paris on Sunday.

7. Fashion designer **Diane von Furstenberg** and actress **Molly Sims** attended the world premiere of the GapKids + DVF Collection at Gap In Los Angeles The Grove in Los Angeles on Saturday.

1: JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES FOR LIONSGATE
2,6: MARC PIASECKI/FILMMAGIC
3: SCOTT BARBOUR/GETTY IMAGES
4: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES
5: ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES
7: JOHN SCIULLI/WIREIMAGE

The beauty of saying goodbye

RON PURDY

▶ You can learn more about Bidwell Smith, her writing and her work as a grief counselor at www.clairebidwellsmith.com.

◗ Claire Bidwell Smith chronicles her youth in the realm of her parents' death in a searing new memoir ◗ A unique take on dealing with grief

Claire Bidwell Smith is more than the author behind the incredible new memoir, "The Rules of Inheritance," which chronicles a youth spent coping with the loss of both of her parents to cancer by the time she was 25. She is also a therapist specializing in grief in Los Angeles. She talked to Metro about how one profession informed the other.

Do you find that writing helps with the grief process?

I think writing is an incredibly useful tool for moving through grief. It's something I always encourage the people I counsel to do, whether it's in the form of writing remembrances of a loved one or writing actual letters to the person they've lost. The act of writing is like opening a door in your head to all the things that you can sometimes be afraid to say or think. But the thing about grief is that it just doesn't go away until you really sit with it, until you really let yourself experience it. Therefore, taking time to write about all the things you might be hesitant to let yourself feel is a great way to move through the emotions.

"I thought that by sharing my own journey of grief, I could impart some amount of solace and understanding to others who were going through something similar."
CLAIRE BIDWELL SMITH

Why did you pick the title "The Rules of Inheritance"?

"The Rules of Inheritance" refers to a few things. The rules part refers to the five stages of grief I reference in the book, and to the way that no matter what, there are certain motions a person has to go through in order to move through grief. As for inheritance, I felt that I inherited so much from my parents. In some ways I simply inherited a lot of grief and sadness over their loss, but in other ways I inherited this wonderful legacy of the kind of people they were.

Did your training as a grief therapist help or hinder your creative process?

I think my training as a therapist absolutely helped with this book. On one hand, it helped me to understand myself and the process of grief on a much deeper level, one that really enabled me to write this book. On the other hand, I think that therapy and writing have a bit in common. As a therapist, I work to help people to understand the narrative of their lives, and often I help them to reshape it. In that regard, being a therapist was a really unique way to better understand all the ways that we tell our stories.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

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Cocktails Rings	Up To $15,500	Art Nouveau	Up To $12,500
Charm Bracelets	Up To $5,500	Lavalieres	Up To $8,000
Earrings	Up To $10,500	Garnets Jewelry	Up To $1,000
Bracelets	Up To $13,000	Bakelite Rings	Up To $750
Cameos	Up To $750	Floral Design	Up To $10,500
Victorian	Up To $10,500		

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2 Carats	Up To $15,250
3 Carats	Up To $20,000
4 Carats	Up To $35,000
5 Carats	Up To $43,000
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Bring your items in for a FREE EVALUATION!

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Class Rings	Up To $500
Charm Bracelets	Up To $5,500
Wedding Bands	Up To $250
Mountings	Up To $750
Antique Items	Up To $5,500
Single Flatware Items	Up To $750
Dental Gold Items	Up To $500
Coins & Bullion	Bring for quote
Scrap Gold	Bring for quote

We Buy Anything Made of Gold or Platinum, Even Broken or Damaged!

ALL TYPES OF COINS WANTED

We will pay up to for the following rare coins:

- *U.S. Silver Halves 1934 and Older
- *U.S. Silver Quarters 1932 and Older
- *U.S. Silver Dimes 1934 and Older
- *U.S. Half Dimes 1873 and Older
- *U.S. Nickels 1913 and Older
- *U.S. Three Cent Pieces 1889 and Older
- *U.S. Two Cent 1873 and Older
- *U.S. Indianhead 1 cent 1909 and Older
- *U.S. Large Cent 1857 and Older
- *U.S. Half Cent 1857 and Older

Your Coins Could be Worth Up To Hundreds — Even Thousands!

*Check your items to see if you own any of these valuable coins:

U.S. Silver Halves - 1870 CC	Up To $3,000
U.S. Silver Quarters - 1901 S Quarters	Up To $2,500
U.S. Silver Dimes - 1885 S	Up To $2,500
U.S. Half Dimes - 1802 Heraldic Eagle Reverse	Up To $4,000
U.S. Two Cent - 1864 Small Motto	Up To $1,000
U.S. Large Cent - 1803 Large Date Small Fraction	Up To $1,250
U.S. Half Cent - 1793	Up To $1,250

SILVER DOLLARS

We pay up to the following for rare dollars:

United States

1794 to 1803	1840 to 1873	1878 to 1904
1836 to 1839	Trade Dollars	1921 to 1935

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Check your items to see if you own any of these valuable coins:

1798 15 Stars obverse	Up To $25,000
Gobrecht reeded edge dye alignment	Up To $5,500
1873CC Liberty Sealed	Up To $5,500
1878CC	Up To $15,500
1889CC	Up To $13,000
1928	Up To $5,500

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Before Bringing your items to us, take them to other dealers. Have them give you legitimate offers in writing. Then bring your jewelry and written offers to one of our locations. Although no one can guarantee with certainty they are paying the highest price for an article at any particular time, we will strive to beat most legitimate written offers.

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The condition and rarity of an item determines its price. If an item is in excellent condition and very rare it might be worth the up to price, or even more. However, if an item is in poor condition, the value will be lower. For example, a 1927 S Quarter could be worth $7,000 in new condition or less than $20 in poor condition. The up to price reflects items of exceptional quality and rarity. Although it is unlikely you will have these items due to their extreme rarity, feel free to bring whatever items you may have and we will evaluate them free of charge.

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2 DAYS ONLY! TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th & THURSDAY, MARCH 8th! at the Marriott Courtyard Midtown East & Marriott Brooklyn Bridge.

YOUR ITEM LIST

Take a few moments to check ✓ off the items you may have that we need!

- ✓ **JEWELRY:**
- ☐ Gold Jewelry
- ☐ Silver Jewelry
- ☐ Diamond Jewelry
- ☐ Wristwatches
- ☐ Pocketwatches
- ☐ Antique Jewelry
- ☐ Cameos
- ☐ Platinum Jewelry
- ☐ Charm Bracelets
- ☐ Gold Rings
- ☐ Garnet Jewelry
- ☐ Enamel Items on Gold & Silver
- ☐ Dental Gold
- ✓ **COINS & PAPER MONEY:**
- ☐ Silver Dollars (Pre-1935)
- ☐ Silver Coins (Pre-1964)
- ☐ Silver Bars
- ☐ Gold Bars
- ☐ U.S. Gold Coins
- ☐ Foreign Gold Coins
- ☐ Gold Bullion Coins
- ☐ Proof Sets
- ☐ Mint Sets
- ☐ Paper Money (1860-1934)
- ☐ Coin Collections
- ☐ Carson City Silver Dollars
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- ☐ Investment Coins
- ☐ Certified Coins
- ✓ **STERLING SILVER:**
- ☐ Silver Jewelry
- ☐ Flatware Sets
- ☐ Single Flatware Items
- ☐ Tea Sets
- ☐ Antique Items (all kinds)

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Centerpieces	Up To $3,500
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Full Flatware Set	Up To $8,500
Punch Bowls & Sets	Up To $5,000
Single Flatware Items	Up To $750
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Trophies	Up To $1,500

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We pay up to the following for rare gold:

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$1.00	1849 to 1889	$5.00	1795 to 1833	$10.00	1795 to 1804
$2.50	1796 to 1834	$5.00	1834 to 1838	$10.00	1838 to 1932
$2.50	1840 to 1929	$5.00	1839 to 1908	$20.00	1850 to 1933
$3.00	1854 to 1889	$5.00	1908 to 1929		

Your Coins Could be Worth Up To Hundreds — Even Thousands!

Check your items to see if you own any of these valuable coins:

$1.00	1849C	Up To $10,500
$2.50	1796 Capped Bust large left side	Up To $18,000
$2.50	1841 Quarter Eagle Liberty Head	Up To $5,000
$3.00	1854O	Up To $10,500
$5.00	1795 Small Eagle	Up To $52,000
$5.00	1838O	Up To $10,500
$5.00	1842C Small Date, 1901D, 1854S	Up To $6,500
$5.00	1909O, 1929	Up To $6,500
$10.00	1899O, 1863S, 1875	Up To $8,000
$20.00	1856O, 1854O, 1850O, 1861S, 1870CC, 1886, 1891	Up To $10,500

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All Kinds, Time Periods & Types

Rare Watches Worth a Fortune in Cash! Pay up to for the following:

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Breitling	$15,000	Hamilton	$500	Tiffany & Co.	$15,000
Cartier	$12,500	Illinois	$1,500	Ulysse Nardin	$10,000
Corum	$3,000	Jules Jurgenson	$16,000	Chronograph Watches	$16,500
Dirksheri	$14,000	LeCourtte	$6,000	Ladies Watches	$11,000
Dudley	$11,500	Longines	$13,000		
E. Howard & Co.	$12,000	Movado	$2,500		
Elgin	$750	Omega	$2,500		
Frodsham	$12,000	Rolex	$16,000		

PLEASE NOTE:

We also purchase watches that are NOT in working order.

Breitling
Up To $15,000

Rolex - All Kinds
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Tiffany & Co.
Up To $15,000

Cartier
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Longines
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— *A. Davis*

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— *J. Sewell*

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— *C. Lang*

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TV watch list

'Raising Hope'

COMEDY. Sabrina (Shannon Woodward) is sentenced to two weeks in the slammer after participating in an Occupy Natesville rally. Luckily for Woodward, the actress' real-life pal, Katy Perry, guest stars as one of the prison attendants. Unluckily for Sabrina, Perry's character makes her stay hell. **8 p.m., Fox**

'Cougar Town'

COMEDY. Star/executive producer Courteney Cox goes behind the camera to direct this episode, which finds the cul-de-sac forming a "Braveheart"-esque uprising against a gang of bike-riding teens. **8:30 p.m., ABC**

'Breaking In'

COMEDY. Salvaged from the cancellation heap, this workplace comedy hires a new boss — the always-funny Megan Mullally — to whip the Contra Security crew (and the sitcom itself) into shape. **Season premiere, 9:30 p.m., Fox** AMBER RAY

Rain O.A.R. shine

On their new album, friends that formed a band in high school come together to reaffirm their commitment to one another through the best of times and the worst of times Singer on holding up to his own lyrics

COURTESY OF SHOREFIRE PUBLICITY

▶ O.A.R plays sold-out shows tonight through Saturday at The Bowery Ballroom (6 Delancey St.).

If listeners perceive a previously unheard gravitas beneath the bouncy grooves and anthemic choruses of the new O.A.R. album, that's because while working on "King," the band went through dark times. Singer and guitarist Marc Roberge says that his wife's diagnosis with cancer and her subsequent successful treatment gave new meaning to soul-searching verses he had already been working on. Not only did the hardship serve as a lyrical litmus test of sorts, but the experience also made him realize how important the band he started with his friends in high school really is to him.

"I went into the album with every intention of writing about somebody who has come to this realization, you know, somebody who has realized that you can't live your life constantly out there searching for something — at some point you've got to just look right around you at everything that's within arm's reach," he says. "In the middle of the record-making process, when everything started to happen on the home front, it really solidified it — but at the same time it made me realize how full of it I was. It's really good to talk about that — it's kind of cool to put out positive quotes — but until you really have to, it's all just words."

The music on "King" certainly does put out the positive vibes, and there is a palpable sting of sincerity as Roberge sings lines like, "I know you've got my back," against a reggae rhythm in "Fire," and "everything we got is everything we need" in "Heaven."

"You have this dream when you're 15 that you want to be on the road," says Roberge. "Then life goes on, and you're in a band for 15 years, you have kids and all these brothers in the band. It becomes very difficult to balance the world of travel and home. You get tested every single tour, and you really have to love it. … And it turned out, when it got hard, everyone still wanted to get the music out there."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Of a revelation

This upcoming string of shows marks the first headlining dates in NYC since selling out Madison Square Garden in 2009 for O.A.R., whose name stands for Of A Revolution. Instead of playing bigger venues, the members of O.A.R. decided that they wanted to play multiple nights at smaller venues.

"We'll go in there and play almost every song we've ever had," says Roberge. "We're going to try to write songs onstage. It's going to be completely loose. We're going to bring in some special guests. … We really want to connect with our very close fan-base."

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Paris Fashion Week reviews

KENYA HUNT
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Sonia Rykiel

1 The house of Rykiel has gone through a lot of change lately. It has a relatively new creative director, April Crichton; new owners (Hong-Kong based Fung Brands just purchased an 80 percent stake in the company last week); and a new look. The only problem is that the clothes were missing all the color, humor and Parisian, girly fun we love the brand for. Instead, the collection featured pared-down sportswear staples including skirt and trouser suits in a neutral color palette of black, ivory, nude and apricot — not a single bright-colored, striped sweater in sight. Sonia sat front row, as always — her hair adding a much-needed shock of red to the setting. But her spunk was sadly missing on the runway. Let's just hope that the new regime doesn't lose the DNA of the brand she built.

Haider Ackermann

2 Haider Ackermann has been on an unstoppable creative streak that heightens with each collection. His Saturday morning show took place against a backdrop of rumors that he would be getting the creative director job at Christian Dior. And based on the clothes he showed, which were an incredible thesis on the art of jaw-dropping garment construction, he could handle the role of couturier with no problem. He showed complex outerwear with curved, sinewy lines that demanded to be studied at every angle. Some came with elaborately gathered peplums, others with beautifully draped backs. These were clothes to be collected as contemporary art —but also to be worn. And that's ultimately what makes jaded editors give him a standing ovation as they did on Saturday. Haider's work is artful, complicated and high-brow, without over-intellectualizing things. The clothes ultimately do what most women want clothes to do: make them feel long, lean and beautiful. That's the kind of skill that can only be developed with time.

Givenchy

3 Givenchy is always one of the most anticipated shows of Paris. Riccardo Tisci didn't disappoint with a collection inspired by the equestrian world and the work of photographer Guy Bourdin. Forget the sexless, tweedy hunting set — Tisci's horsey theme was racy with an S&M sensibility. There were riding jackets cinched tight; riding boots, jodhpur pants and furs (from a successful hunt, maybe?) teamed with leather gloves running high beyond the elbow and hinting toward a different kind of horseplay. All that was missing was the whip. What followed were pleated skirts, camisoles and cocktail dresses with lace applique in striking colors such as blood red and sage green.

RICHARD PECKETT

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

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Parenting notes

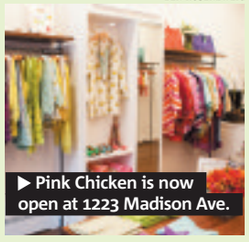
Should kids see "Bully"?

A new film called "Bully," which tracks five families affected by taunting at school, will hit theaters at the end of the month with an R rating. Children and adults, including public figures like The Rev. Jesse Jackson, are speaking out in protest of the R rating, claiming that the very subjects of the movie — kids — should be allowed to see it, despite its harsh language. Want to get involved? Visit www.change.org to sign a petition calling for a PG-13 rating. As of press time, the petition had over 200,000 signatures.

Pink Chicken gets cluckin'

Little girls (and their fashionable moms!) can check out Pink Chicken, a cute, vintage-inspired clothing line that just

BEN ROSENZWEIG



▶ Pink Chicken is now open at 1223 Madison Ave.

set up shop on the Upper East Side at 1223 Madison Ave. Infants, toddlers and teens can browse dresses, shirts, leggings and other threads; their moms can pick outfits to match. We hear that Jennifer Garner and Nicole Richie dress their tots in the label's duds. Oh, and about the brand's name? "My husband suggested Pink Chicken because that was what we always called chicken to bribe our daughter into eating it," says owner Stacey Fraser.

METRO/ME

Dos and don'ts for treating your child's fever

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ If your child has a fever and is less than 2 months old, head to the hospital.

According to Charles I. Shubin, M.D., we have a condition in the U.S. that he calls a "fever phobia." "We are scared of fevers," says the Medical Director of Children's Health Center, Mercy Family Care (a subsidiary of Family Health Centers of Baltimore). "We're worried that if we don't treat a child's fever, something bad will happen." But as Dr. Shubin carefully points out, treating a fever doesn't mean dosing a child with medicine. The best approach is to figure out what is going on with the child in the first place. From there, most of the time, it's best to just let it run its course. Here's how:

▶ **Understand what a fever is.** "A fever not a disease; it's your body's best mechanism to respond and defend itself to infection," says Dr. Shubin. "You can't 'cure' a fever, but you can try to cure what is happening to them."

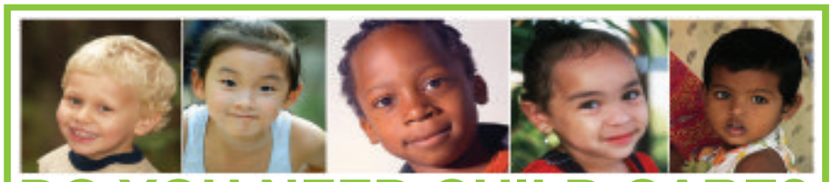
▶ **Look at the child.** "We had three kids in the office today with fevers who were running around like nothing was wrong," recounts Dr. Shubin. "So why would we interfere with the body's natural response system?" Dr. Shubin says that the underlying principle for most doctors it to treat the child. If the child is miserable, treat him with an over-the-counter fever reducer. "Just know that if you do, it might make the child sick for longer."

▶ **Keep your child hydrated.** "Although most fevers are harmless, your child can become dehydrated. Keeping them hydrated will make them feel better."

▶ **If your child is less than 2 months of age, take him or her to a hospital.** A fever in a child this age is very concerning. "These children need to be seen right away as they might not be old enough to fight off infection," he says. Another concern that warrants a trip to the hospital is if the child is becoming unresponsive.

▶ **Still worried?** Call your pediatrician. "Doctors and their staffs have protocols to dispense advice over the phone. We can usually tell what is going on for peace of mind."

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us



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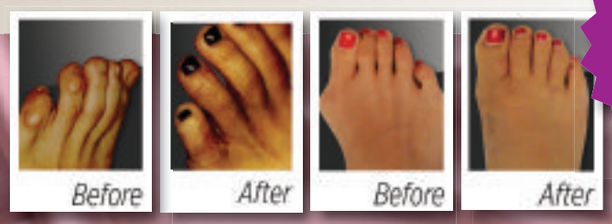

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Letters

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Who's dividing America, again?

RE: "THREE WAYS OBAMA IS DIVIDING AMERICA": It's a pity that improving education didn't make the top five in Mr. Bovinski's list of three things he would do as president. **MARIA ELENA MCWILLIAMS, VIA E-MAIL**

The title of your letter is as ill-conceived as the points it contains. Let me explain why. 1: All elected officials can always listen more and dictate less, so you might as well say "be nicer" or "agree with me more frequently." 2: Secure borders are a pipe dream. Just the Mexican and Canadian borders are nearly 10,000 miles of territory and there are tens of thousands of miles of ocean where no wall would help. 3: The president doesn't cut spending, Congress does. Nor does the president print money. It's complicated; ask an adult. 4: Congress's job, again. 5: Congress. Again. Everyone is entitled to an opinion, but you might consider a refresher on high school social studies before you get on your high horse. **JEREMY CONRAD, BROOKLYN**

John Bovinski says this administration is dividing America. Really? I didn't know President Obama was restricting women's rights and attacking the middle class while endorsing continued tax cuts for the top 1 percent. Ending the war in Iraq and bringing our troops home? Quite divisive. Promoting renewable energy sources instead of being slaves to countries of the Middle East? How un-American. **ROBERT LA ROSA, WHITESTONE**

Israel asks much, takes even more

RE: "ISRAEL SO SMALL, ITS ENEMIES SO LARGE": Actually, Israel asks the U.S. for much more than verbal support. The U.S. gives Israel over $3 billion in aid per year and what do we get in return? American support of Israel has resulted in hatred toward the U.S. throughout the Middle East and made our citizens less safe. **CARL HANSON, VIA E-MAIL**

Thanks, Joan Bachman, for articulating your support for Israel, home to fewer than 6 million Jews (familiar number?), a tiny strip of land neighbored by mortal enemy states exceeding it 100-fold in combined size and population. Not a single other country's staggering human rights violation record has ever been singled out so blatantly as Israel's. **GAROLD MINKIN, NEW YORK**

Let's also not forget that Iran, because it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, is allowed to refine uranium for energy. Israel has never signed the NPT, and instead of participating in a global discussion about disarmament assassinates scientists instead. And now they're talking about war. If Israel wants to "sit back and protect itself," they can stop the murder. Israel isn't the only country with the right to protect itself. **RYAN ROCHE, VIA E-MAIL**

Please be careful to avoid sexist diction

RE: "LIMBAUGH SORRY FOR CALLING GIRL A SLUT": Your Rush Limbaugh headline was misworded. The "girl" you referred to is Sandra Fluke, who is actually a 30-year-old law student. She is not a "girl." Please try harder to avoid this demeaning and sexist usage in the future. **MARK JASON DOMINUS, VIA E-MAIL**

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
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Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** If you find yourself contending with more opposition from others than usual, it's time to examine your recent behavior. Correct any defects that you find, and things will straighten out.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Take on a bad attitude and you'll make your duties and assignments more complex and burdensome than they really are. Try to see your work as something fun and challenging.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Unless you avoid groups or cliques that have persons whom you truly dislike among their ranks, you can look for it to be another problematical day.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Hold your tongue so that you don't accidentally say anything abrasive about someone who is extremely important to your plans. She or he will hear about it and won't be likely to laugh it off.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even when talking to someone for whom you have little respect, keep an open mind about matters that concern you. You could learn something quite valuable.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Being jealous or envious of others is always a self-defeating attitude. If you let it get the best of you, you could say something that you might deeply regret.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** In order to have your way, you must first allow others to have theirs. If you fail to let them express themselves, they will block your means to do so.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't be surprised if, when trying to pawn your duties onto others, you are met with tremendous rejection, especially if you haven't helped others when they needed it in the past.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Regardless of how good you think your ideas are, if they differ either vastly or even just a little from those of your friends, it's best to let the majority rule. Sometimes a group-made decision can be the best one.

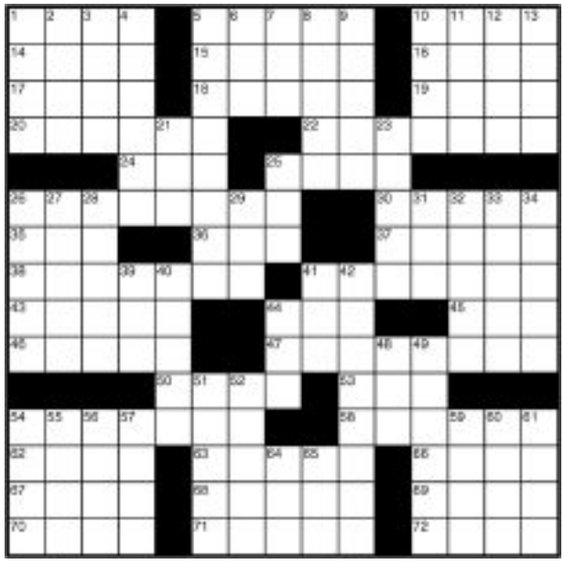
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If your hull isn't as strong as you think it is, don't rock the boat. It might prove to very easy to alienate many of those whose support you need.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. It could be another wasted day if you don't chart your course beforehand. There's a likelihood that you'll find yourself running around in circles due to poor or totally absent planning.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Be wary of your analysis of matters relating to money or material assets. If your judgment is impaired because of a lack of knowledge, you're likely to make more than a few gaffes. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Grand Canyon sight
5 Really impressed
10 Catamount
14 Surmounting
15 Pointless
16 Ambler or Clapton
17 Ride a windjammer
18 Leif's language
19 Red-tag event
20 Ruggedly built
22 Sustains
24 Halfway
25 __ -majeste
26 Jumbling up
30 Wacky Williams
35 Bulldogs backer
36 McTavish's turndown
37 Good, to Juan
38 Rainy-day cache (2 wds.)
41 Old-time remedy
43 Globe feature
44 Rand of fiction
45 Geologic division
46 Ohio city
47 Worked on a second draft
50 Prevail upon
53 Belly dance instrument
54 Looser
58 Bangs and creaks
62 Sinister
63 Ukulele cousin
66 __ von Bismarck
67 First flight
68 Complete reversal (hyph.)
69 Actress __ Freeman
70 Took to the pool
71 Edgy
72 German industrial region

Down
1 M, to Einstein
2 Coup d'__
3 Yves' eve
4 Composure
5 Big bash
6 Lennon's Yoko
7 Serious conflict
8 Come next
9 Lowest regions
10 Baja coin
11 Russian range
12 Bland
13 Snake eyes
21 Less than one
23 Fennel and lovage
25 Sz. choice
26 Type of salami
27 Noted wise guy
28 Stage platform
29 Find fault
31 Loophole
32 Jaunty lid
33 Habituate
34 Herd follower
39 Lao-Tzu's "way"
40 World-weariness
41 Comic Louis __
42 Person-to-person (hyph.)
44 "Right you __ "
48 Half a quartet
49 "Eat crow" and "talk turkey"
51 Confute
52 Log holder
54 Ms. Myerson
55 Acknowledge
56 __ monster
57 Latch onto
59 Portico
60 Long-active volcano
61 Hang-glide
64 Wimple sporter



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8	1						5	9
9	7				4			
3		5						
	9		8	3		5	6	
			7			4		8

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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			3	9	8		4	5
5	2				6			
		2					9	7
		9				1		
3	8					5		
			4				6	2
2	7		8	6	9			
				7	5	8		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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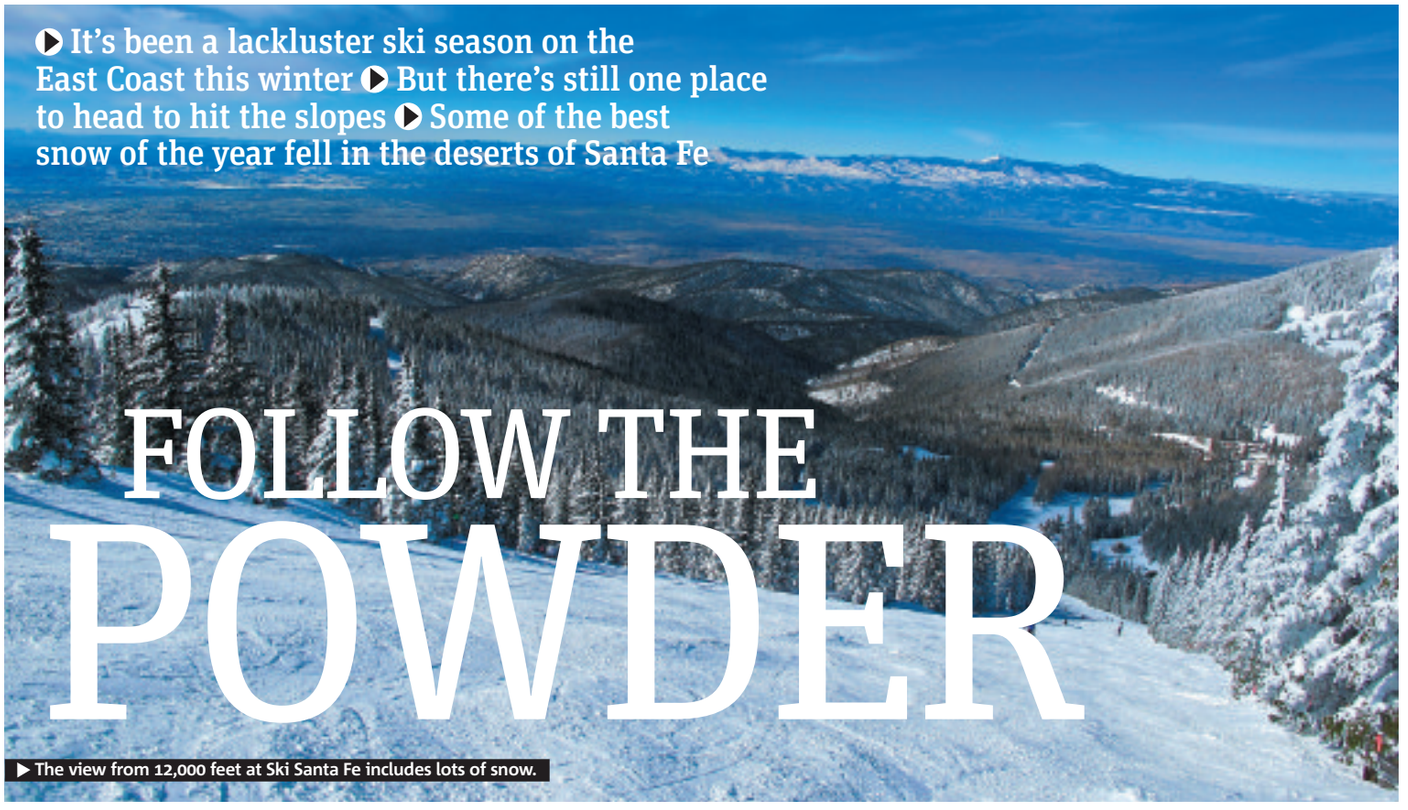

It's been a lackluster ski season on the East Coast this winter But there's still one place to head to hit the slopes Some of the best snow of the year fell in the deserts of Santa Fe

FOLLOW THE POWDER

The view from 12,000 feet at Ski Santa Fe includes lots of snow.

If you go

Ski Santa Fe
www.skisantafe.com
One of the highest ski areas in the country, it's home to the **Adaptive Ski Program (www.adaptiveski.com)** for kids and adults with disabilities.

After a lackluster winter, Northeast skiers and snowboarders may not be surprised to hear that some of the best snow of the season fell in the deserts of New Mexico. "This year we've been particularly blessed," says Kevin St. John, a private instructor who has been skiing in New Mexico for more than 40 years. "We've gotten these wonderful little storms, one after another."

Ski Santa Fe, a ski area 16 miles northeast of the city, has received more than 132 inches of snow this winter. Angel Fire Resort reported 126 inches, and the season isn't over yet. "We'll be skiing through the first week of April," says St. John.

Northern New Mexico's excellent ski conditions may be an unintentionally well-kept secret. Even though the state is home to the venerable Taos Ski Valley, a recent focus group held by the state tourism department revealed that many Americans were unaware that it even snowed in New Mexico. And it's not just any snow: The region's combination of high altitude and dry, desert air creates ideal conditions for the light, fluffy and eminently skiable snow known as "champagne powder."

"Western snow is dryer and lighter, and so much easier to ski."
KEVIN ST. JOHN

St. John describes New Mexico's snow as "user-friendly." The snow back east, he says, is wetter, more dense and turns into ice very quickly. "Western snow is dryer and lighter, and so much easier to ski."

New Mexico's snowstorms don't linger. After depositing fresh snow on the trails, the clouds clear quickly, giving way to the warm sun that the state is known for, even in the winter. "There's lots of sunshine to ski in, along with the powder," says St. John. "That combination is just extraordinary."

REBECCA FINKEL
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More ski spots

Taos Ski Valley
www.skitaos.org
Taos offers a challenging ski area. Book early for a chance to stay at the **St. Bernard (www.stbernardtaos.com)**.

Red River Ski Area
www.redriverskiarea.com
This is "a funky little ski hill in the middle of a funky little town," per local institution Wally Dobbs. Don't skip the sunset snowmobile ride.

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Big East hits the Garden

Conference tournament begins today at noon ◗ Top-seed Syracuse is a major favorite, but are they our pick to take the crown? ◗ Metro gives you our winner, plus who not to overlook

In the news

Pineda appears

Yankees fans caught their first glimpse of new starter Michael Pineda yesterday.

Pineda was impressive in his first two innings of the spring, striking out two and allowing one hit in two innings of work.

David Robertson, who is expected to be the main set-up man for Mariano Rivera, pitched after Pineda — allowing one run on one hit and a walk in his first work of the spring.

Contenders

Syracuse (30-1, 17-1)

OK, so it's not exactly going out on a limb to say Syracuse, the No. 2 team in the country, is a top contender to win the Big East tournament.

Fans from central New York always travel well to the Garden and, let's face it, they have the best team.

But that doesn't mean they will win. When they won the national title in 2003, they didn't even make the final — despite having Carmelo Anthony.

Only twice in the last eight years has the top seed won. Syracuse is a contender, but not our pick.

Marquette (25-6, 14-4)

Metro's pick to win it all is the team that's gotten no respect all year.

The Golden Eagles are coming off a romp against Georgetown, and all four conference losses are on the road — including a tough one at the Orange. We like their path to the title game too.

You should get to know Jae Crowder.

Pretender

South Florida (19-12, 12-6)

If you have a soft spot in your heart for the scrappy, underdog Bulls, we're sorry. Their feel-good story is over.

They went into the last weekend of the season with a chance to secure a double-bye in the tournament. Instead, they choked at home against West Virginia in a game that set back basketball a few decades.

They shot 39 percent from the field, including an ugly 2-of-14 from 3. But that's just one game, right?

Actually their 44-point output was one of 10 times they couldn't break the 50-point barrier. Syracuse did it, unsurprisingly, zero times.

9.9 South Florida has nobody averaging double-digit scoring. Augustus Gilchrest leads the team with 9.9 ppg.

But even teams in the middle of the pack didn't have that horrific of an offensive output regularly. Cincinnati did it once; so did Louisville. Seton Hall did it three times.

The Bulls can't score. They're tenacious, they're gutty and they do an incredibly poor job of putting the ball into the basket.

Those aren't the kind of teams you want to pick in March.

They had a nice run, nabbing the No. 6 seed in the tourney — but they won't be sticking around long and they don't deserve a spot in the big dance.

Dark horse

Connecticut (18-12, 8-10)

You may question whether the Huskies belong as an under-the-radar team coming off a title last year, but they are the No. 9 seed and will have to play the first day.

Sound familiar?

It better, because it's the same scenario as last season, when they won the Big East tournament and then marched to the national title. They even opened with the same team — DePaul. The second team they'd face is West Virginia, a team they've already beaten this year.

Jim Calhoun is back in charge, Shabazz Napier looked great against Pitt, and it shouldn't surprise you to see another tourney run. ● MARK OSBORNE

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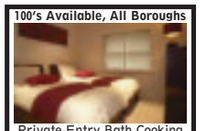

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of 10-63 Jackson - 2-F LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on January 25, 2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, % Neil D. Ash, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 1507, New York, NY 10168. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 2 26 50th Ave - 5-C LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on January 25, 2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, % Neil D. Ash, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 1507, New York, NY 10168. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # PENDING for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 206-06 Hillside Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11427 for on-premises consumption. Rajdhani Indian Restaurant Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # 1261064, for Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 86 Mulberry St., NY, NY 10013. New York County, for on-premise consumption. Xe Lua Restaurant Inc.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW that the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from Pedro's Bar & Restaurant, Inc. to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 73 Jay Street in the Borough of Brooklyn, for a term of two years.

REQUEST FOR A COPY OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO DEPT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK NY 10004. ATTN: FOIL OFFICER.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW that the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from P & A 665 Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Galaxy Diner to continue to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 665 9th Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan, for a term of two years.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF of SUNNY NAIL SPA LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/09/2011 Office location: NASSAU County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1005 PORT WASHINGTON BLVD STE 1, PORT WASHINGTON, NY 11050 Purpose: Any lawful activity

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